

Remarks

We have amended the Specification to make minor corrections to the PCT application that resulted from errors in translating the original Japanese text.

We respectfully request early examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,



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In the Specification (Marked-Up Version)

On page 4, please replace the fourth and fifth full paragraphs with the following:

Figure 2 [is an outline diagram showing the form of the fingernail-shaped portion in the present invention] is an outline diagram showing schematically the local fatigue resistance test in the present invention.

Figure 3 [is an outline diagram showing schematically the local fatigue resistance test in the present invention] is an outline diagram showing the form of the fingernail-shaped portion in the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph spanning pages 20 and 21 with the following:

After casting the aforesaid DMF solution of the polyurethane onto a glass plate to a thickness of 1 mm, the glass plate is immersed in water to prepare a wet-cast film. Next, this wet-cast film is thoroughly washed and dried, after which dyeing is carried out for 45 minutes at 120°C using “Sumikaron Brilliant Red SE2BF” (produced by the Sumitomo Chemical Co.) At a bath ratio 1:30 based on the addition of 10% of the dyestuff in terms of the weight of wet-cast film. Thereafter, the polyurethane film is removed and thoroughly washed with water, after which 20 mg of the polyurethane film is taken and dissolved in 200 mL of DMF. Next, the absorbance of this polyurethane DMF solution is measured and the dyestuff content A of the polyurethane after dyeing is determined from a previously-constructed calibration curve. Furthermore, the aforesaid remaining polyurethane film which has been dyed and washed is then subjected to a 20 minute reduction wash at 80°C using water containing 2 g/L of sodium hydroxide, 8 g/L of hydrosulphite and 1 g/L of Gran-Up US20 (produced by Sanyo Chemical Industries), at a bath ratio of 1/20, after which the polyurethane film is removed, thoroughly washed with water and then the dyestuff content B of the polyurethane after the reduction wash determined by the same procedure as above.

Please replace the paragraph spanning pages 34 and 35 with the following:

Polyurethane was obtained in the usual way, employing a [30 : 70] 20 : 80 mixture of PHC of molecular weight 2000 and PTMG of molecular weight 2000 as the polymer diol, MDI as the diisocyanate and MBA as a chain extender. Then a suede-like sheet was obtained under the same conditions as in Example 4 except that there was used this polyurethane as the polyurethane employed. The features of the production method in this comparative example and the characteristics of the suede-like sheet obtained are shown in Table 1.

On page 36, please replace the footnotes under Table 1 with the following:

*Methods of felt production

- 1: [A thick web was subjected to needle punching, then impregnated with polyurethane, to produce one sheet of nonwoven] Two thin layers of web were superimposed and then needle punching/polyurethane impregnation performed, after which slicing was carried out to produce two sheets of nonwoven material
- 2: [Two thin layers of web were superimposed and then needle punching/polyurethane impregnation performed, after which slicing was carried out to produce two sheets of nonwoven material] A thick web was subjected to needle punching, then impregnated with polyurethane, to produce one sheet of nonwoven